Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
JANUARY 31, 1931

Leonora Speyer

Whose poem, "A Word to Martha," written for the dedication ceremonies of Alva Belmont House and read there over a nation-wide radio hook-up, is a distinguished addition to the poetry of Feminism. Mrs. Speyer is vice-president of the Poetry Society of America and winner of the Pulitzer prize for poetry. She is author of "A Canopic Jar" and "Fiddler's Farewell." Her new book, "Naked Heel," will be published by Knopf in the early spring.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Justice versus Expediency

PITIFUL, PITIFUL. We repeat the word, for it is the only one within the limitations of the English language that expresses in any degree our feelings. We have just finished reading "Extracts from a letter" sent by Caroline Lexow, chairman of the New York City League of Women Voters, to the Commissioner of Police of New York City. The extracts appeared in the *Weekly News,* December 26, 1930, preceded by a statement headed, "Justice for All," which reads in part as follows:

"The Municipal Affairs Committee is extremely interested in adequate legislation to secure justice for women apprehended on charges of immoral conduct. One change in the present laws, known as the Customers' Amendment, making men equally liable with women in prostitution cases, has been supported for several years by the New York League of Women Voters. * * * The Municipal Affairs Committee recommended that an expression of our stand in the present situation be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, at the same time taking steps to renew the league's effort in the State Legislature for proper laws on the subject."

So far, so good, but then come the extracts from Miss Lexow's letter:

"The New York City League of Women Voters has viewed with much concern the recent revelations before the Investigating Committee of the Appellate Division of the taking of graft by certain members of the Vice Squad of the Police Department. As we see the problem created by these disclosures, it has two equally important aspects. The most obvious one, of course, is the urgent necessity for detection, prosecution and full punishment of all policemen engaging in such vicious and demoralizing practices.

"The less obvious but equally alarming aspect of the situation we also regard as a matter for grave concern. We have been informed that as a result of recent revelations honest policemen are reluctant to make arrests where evidence of guilt is clear, because of present attacks upon the conduct of vice cases and the widespread publicity given to them. We therefore wish to urge the strict enforcement of the law against prostitution."

TO THE casual reader, to the non-feminist reader, this letter, together with the preliminary statement, will seem altogether commendable.

To the Feminist it is the supreme tragedy. It is the defeat of our hopes, the denial of our faith, our faith in women. If Miss Lexow represented all women, instead of just a comparatively small group of women in the League of Women Voters, we should furl our banners in utter dejection and admit that the good fight had been in vain. For under the title, "Justice for All," Miss Lexow completely overlooks justice for women.

Under an unjust law, virtuous women, defenseless and innocent girls, married women with decent, self-respecting husbands, have been forced to submit to the ignominy of an official examination of their generative organs, and have been railroaded to prison, and still the official spokesman of the League of Women Voters, in the very city where this travesty on justice occurred, urges "strict enforcement."

Miss Lexow is herself a woman, but she does not understand. If she herself, instead of her sister, had suffered the humiliation; if she herself, virtuous as she is, had been publicly branded as a prostitute and sent to jail, she would be of a different opinion. Then she would realize that injustice is the inevitable fruit of injustice. In her letter it is clear that Miss Lexow is actuated by the principle of expediency. She recognizes the fact that the prostitution law is unjust to women, but she regards this point as of less importance than "public decency."

Thus it is that mankind in the main has reasoned throughout the ages with regard to the concerns of women. It was not thought expedient at one time that girls should be educated, nor expedient that women should enjoy the right of franchise. It is not now regarded as expedient in certain States that women should be jurymen, nor that married women should have equal opportunities with other workers to earn a living. The whole system of welfare legislation based on sex, denying as it does to women "the equal protection of the laws," guaranteed under the Constitution, is vindicated by its advocates solely on the grounds of expediency. When it is a matter of expediency versus justice in questions involving women, almost the whole world sides as Miss Lexow does with expediency.

This it is that forces the sharp line of demarcation between the National Woman's Party and the pseudo-Feminist organizations. The Woman's Party maintains that justice should always take precedence over expediency, for, in the very nature of things, justice alone is competent to dictate what is expedient.

Hearing on Nationality Bills

SEVEN women's organizations, six of them, national in scope, a distinguished international jurist, and the Delegate of the Territory of Hawaii on January 23 urged a sub-committee of the House of Representatives Committee on Immigration and Naturalization to report favorably a measure removing from the nationality and immigration laws the remaining discriminations against women.

Two bills, both introduced by Representative John L. Cable of Ohio, were before the committee. One of them would remove the major remaining discrimination by repealing the law which causes an American woman to lose her citizenship upon marriage to an alien ineligible for citizenship and an alien woman eligible for citizenship to become ineligible for naturalization upon marriage to an ineligible alien. The other would apply to men the same provisions now in the law applying to women only—in other words, an American man who marries an ineligible alien would lose his citizenship and an eligible alien man who marries an ineligible alien woman would lose his right to be naturalized.

All the witnesses before the committee urged that the first of the two bills be adopted. Some definitely opposed the second, while others, including the National Woman's Party, merely expressed a preference for the first which would in effect provide that marriage shall have no affect upon nationality of either man or woman.

The former bill also provides that a mother may transmit nationality to a child as a father now does, and this principle was likewise approved by those present. This bill contains an amendment to the immigration laws which would permit an American wife to bring her alien husband into the United States as a non-quota immigrant, just as now the alien wife of an American husband has non-quota status.

The preferred bill, H. R. 14684 thus goes further in equalizing the law than does the other bill, H. R. 16303, and H. R. 14684 equalizes the law by removing the discrimination against women, while H. R. 16303 extends to men the same disability which women now suffer.

Dr. James Brown Scott was the first speaker, stressing two points: First, that it is not a good thing to divide nations into two classes, one being those countries with whose nationals Americans may intermarry and the other being those with whose nationals this country penalizes marriage; and second, that women should not be penalized for doing something for which a man is not penalized.

Victor S. K. Houston, delegate from the Territory of Hawaii, told the difficulties which the present law forces upon women of Hawaii, citing examples of Hawaiian women, native-born citizens of the United States, but of Japanese, Chinese, or Polynesian ancestry, who upon marrying men of their own race lose their citizenship without ever leaving the jurisdiction of the United States.

Delegate Houston suggested a clarification of the bill, and supported H. R. 14684 rather than H. R. 16303.

Mrs. Mark Lansburgh, representing the National Council of Jewish Women, spoke for H. R. 14684 but against H. R. 16303, and added that the women she represents favor the transmission of nationality by the mother as well as by the father.

Marguerite Wells, representing the National League of Women Voters, said that her organization favors removal of discriminations against women in nationality laws, that it is supporting H. R. 14684, and that she did not care to state whether her organization would support H. R. 16303 if it is impossible to pass the preferable bill.

Mrs. Clarence Frame of Wilmington, Delaware, spoke for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and supported H. R. 14684, asserting that her organization is for the principle of equality in nationality laws, and that they would want this bill passed even if it affected only one person.

Laura Berrien spoke next, representing the National Association of Women Lawyers, which came out definitely for full equality in nationality laws in 1929. She pointed out that all over the world thinking, organized women are uniting to obtain equality in nationality laws, by national laws and international agreements. Commenting upon Mrs. Frame's answer to a question by Representative Cable, Miss Berrien said that the question of nationality affects every woman because when the government of this country takes a stand that a woman's nationality is not as intimate, as valuable a thing as a man's, every woman's dignity and status suffer.

She spoke of the humiliation women suffer by being discriminated against, of the stimulus to patriotism it would provide for the government to admit in its laws that a woman's relation to her country is just as sincere, just as valuable, just as fine as a man's.

Dr. Emma Wold, one time technical advisor to the American delegation at The Hague Conference, representing the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, said that her organization adopted a nationality resolution containing two points: 1. Marriage shall not affect nationality; 2. Those who have lost their nationality by marriage shall regain it simply by proving that the loss of citizenship was caused by marriage.

The first bill, she said, carries out the principle supported by the Women's Bar Association, while the second would continue the principle of marriage affecting nationality, to which the women lawyers of the National Capital are opposed. She urged that basing nationality upon marriage in any degree whatever be avoided, and said that equality should not be attained by injustice. "Men would not endure," she commented, "what women have had to endure."

Apparently the objection raised by some congressmen to the passage of the Cable bill 14684 is based upon peculiar sentiment on racial matters, she said; that is, certain congressmen are opposed to intermarriage between the white and the yellow races and wish to penalize women who marry men of these races. But, she said, the present discrimination against women chiefly affects Oriental women who are native-born citizens of the United States and who marry men of their own race born in another country. At the same time, the present law does not, in some Western States, actually deprive white women of their United States nationality upon marriage to an alien ineligible to citizenship because State laws prohibit marriage between the races, and thus no valid marriage exists between, for example, an Oriental man and an American woman in those States. She further pointed out that in certain States Orientals are not permitted to own land, so that if an American-born woman of Oriental ancestry marries a man of her own race, born in another country, she loses her citizenship and her right to own land, throwing into a questionable position land she may have rightfully owned before the marriage.

She urged that the law be changed so that marriage does not affect nationality and that men and women have Equal Rights under the nationality laws.

A representative of the American Federation of Labor simply stated that his organization does not oppose the bills.

Martha L. Connole, representing the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, spoke in favor of H. R. 14684, commenting that if the present discriminations against women are extended to include men, as proposed in the other bill, "somebody's bound to be mad about it."

"That's what I want," Representative Cable laughingly replied. "I want men to understand how they would feel if they had to endure what the women have to endure."

Miss Connole urged that Congress "give women what the men already have" instead of taking away from men the same rights of which women are now deprived.

Burnita Shelton Matthews, representing the National Woman's Party, spoke next,

stating that the Woman's Party also prefers H. R. 14684, but wants equality in the nationality laws in any event. She explained the bills in detail, and said that the Woman's Party feels very strongly that the woman should transmit her nationality to her child, as a man does and on the same terms as the man, as provided in H. R. 14684.

Gwen Geach of the League of Women Voters then pointed out that this bill omits to state that a woman retains her nationality upon marriage to an alien unless she renounces it definitely, as provided in the present law. Representative Cable said that this provision should not be left out, but Mrs. Matthews pointed out that to give women this privilege when men do not have it would be a discrimination. She said that without such a provision, women could be naturalized in another country as a man is, and that no special privilege should be given women. She added that such a provision might easily work out to the detriment of women, since under the stress of romantic emotion at marriage, a woman might be induced to renounce her citizenship by a simple gesture without considering all the consequences, only to regret it later. She insisted that if women are given such a privilege, men marrying alien women be given exactly the same privilege.

Delegate Houston again appeared to add to his former statement, telling of a woman of Chinese ancestry, a graduate of Yale University Law School, whose family has for two generations enjoyed American citizenship, and who lost her citizenship upon marriage to a Chinese man, born in San Francisco, California, before the big fire. Because of the loss of records in the fire, he cannot prove his right to American citizenship, and the United States government holds the wife an alien ineligible to citizenship.

Many such instances have been brought to the attention of the committee.

Leonora Speyer, Poet

By Muna Lee

WHEN Leonora Speyer, in the beautiful and moving poem which she read over the nation-wide radio network at the dedication of Alva Belmont House, spoke to "Martha, valiant Martha, feeding still the world today," she emphasized one of the most important phases of contemporary feminism, its recognition of the importance of the homemaker as an economic factor, of homemaking as a profession. It was an eloquent reminder that the old distinction between "the woman with a job" and the "woman who just takes care of the house" has ceased to have significance in a world which realizes that the same qualities are required to manage a successful home and a successful business, or both. Beginning with the age-old antithesis of Mary and Martha, gently indicating the practical value of Martha's too frequently derided contribution, this woman-poet catches up the jeering advice, "Back to the kitchen" in

"Yes, but who's to do the cooking? . . . ."

and makes it the basis of the gallant answer of the modern woman, in whom Martha, the worker, and Mary, the dreamer, are equally blended and equally important, not as detached selves, but as co-ordinates of one whole:

"Take my answer like a challenge
To the strong ones, to the Marthas,
Marys all, if they but know it. . . . . !"

The Woman's Party anthology, when it comes to be compiled, will have a proud list of names and titles; and in it, this latest addition will stand beside Edna Millay's eloquent sonnet to the Pioneers.

There are two little stories interesting to relate in connection with Mrs. Speyer's dedication poem. One is of the black-robed member of a Catholic sisterhood, the starched wings of her order framing earnest, sweet-faced intentness, who came up to the poet after the ceremonies were over, and thanked her personally for the poem:

"I am glad it was about Martha!" she said. "Martha has always been a favorite of mine, and I do think she has not been fully appreciated."

A WORD TO MARTHA

By Leonora Speyer

Mary, at the Master's feet,
Chose the better part, He said;
You, below, prepared the meat,
Filled the wine-jugs, baked the bread;

With no gracious thoughts of love,
Scolding, calling as you stirred.
Mary, in the room above,
Listened only to His word.

Mary chose the better part,
Sitting at the Master's feet;
But you (deft hand, sore-troubled heart),
You fed the Lord. And He did eat.

* * * * * *

Always have I thought to say
This to Martha, valiant Martha,
Feeding still the world today.
And to Mary I would say,
Though she loved the Lord as dearly
(Not more dearly than that other,
Moving mountains as she cried,
"Rabbi, Lord, hadst Thou been here,
Our good brother had not died!")
I would say and say it clearly:
She who served Him, brought Him food,
Sent Him strengthened on His way,
Had great reason to rejoice,
Though hers be the lesser choice.

Radio, fling the small song farther,
Far and farther on the air,
Over miles of meadow glistening,
Frosty hill and tree-top brittle;
Scatter like a seed my singing,
Plant it in the eager soil
That is woman's daily toil—
Many a Martha listening there,
With her halo slipped a little
From her loosened hair!

Women through the ages looking,
Longing for the better part,
Beauty, Wisdom, Worship, Art. * * *
Yes, but who's to do the cooking?

Take my answer like a challenge
To the strong ones, to the Marthas,
Marys all, if they but know it,
Housewife, helpmate, mother, poet!
Dreamers, doers, down the ages,
Women marching through the ages!
Take this Mary-Martha cry
That is woman, that is I,
Lifting shyly, lifting surely
Up the winter sky.

(Courtesy of Harper's Bazaar, first three stanzas.)

The other anecdote is a pleasant instance of professional courtesy. Charles Hanson Towne, editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, seeing the first three stanzas of "A Word to Martha" in manuscript, immediately requested them for his magazine. Later, when Equal Rights asked to publish the poem first, Mr. Towne generously permitted its use in our magazine prior to its announced appearance in Harper's.

Leonora Speyer, as woman and as poet, is herself one of the best exemplifications of that full, rich and harmonious development of personality which is the essence of feminism. Her life is typical of our times, in its breadth of interests and experience. Born in Washington, the daughter of Count Ferdinand von Stoach, a German officer who fought for the Union during the Civil War and later became a naturalized citizen, as a girl she was a professional violinist and appeared with brilliant success with the New York Philharmonic and Boston Symphony Orchestras. For three years she played in concert throughout the country. She then married, and lived in Paris and London until 1915, when she returned to New York with her distinguished husband, Edgar Speyer, and four daughters.

Leonora Speyer began writing in 1916. Of her first volume, "A Canopic Jar," Padraic Colum said, "It is a raid on Parnassus—a raid and something more than a raid, for the base is secured and held." "Fiddler's Farewell," which followed in 1926, was awarded the coveted Pulitzer Prize "for the best volume of verse published during the year by an American author." Incidentally, we may note in passing, Mrs. Speyer has won, at one time or another, every major poetry prize offered in this country; though no one attributes less importance to such arbitrary honors than she.

Three qualities too often absent from contemporary poetry distinguish Leonora Speyer's work: proportion, harmony, and integrity. There is no straining for effect in her art, no tawdriness, no querulousness, no attempt to bewilder nor to dazzle. Her poetry avoids alike pettiness and grandiloquence. At times it has the thrilling poignance, at times the mellowness, of her beloved violin; but it is far, indeed—as far as her poised and gracious womanhood—from jazz and the saxophone of self-styled modernity. Life, love, sor-

row, the immediate physical world and the reality of which that world is the garment: these are the elements which have made Leonora Speyer's poetry, just as they are the four great cornerstones of the towering edifice of English poetry which from the sixteenth century to our own times has been the greatest and the subtlest, the tenderest and the most powerful in the world. It is out of this noble tradition that Leonora Speyer writes, and to this structure that she has brought one woman's contribution of insight and beauty.

Her work is remarkably diversified, both as to technique and subject matter. There is a striking dissimilarity, for instance, between the ironic concentration of "Little Lover"—a twelve-line novel, its theme completely comprehended and completely developed—and the sonorous rolling passages of "Mountains"; or between the muted music of "Epitaph" and the organ-tones of "Monk and Lady"; "Old Doc Higgins" is a *tour de force* of dialect informed with lyric passion; the even tempo of the sonnet-sequence, "A Not Unusual Situation," is in direct contrast to the changing, many-colored rhythms of "Hills About Jerusalem"; while to the present commentator, "Third Floor Landing," seemed when first read, and has seemed ever since, one of the small group of perfect lyrics which is at the heart of the poetry of our language.

And then, along with these, there is the wise and witty feminism of a poem we are privileged to quote:

"The Story as I Understand It"

"I think that Eve first told the callow
tree of apples,
And taught the adolescent serpent how
to hiss
Its first wise word.
I think the Angel with the Flaming
Sword
Followed her with hot, holy eyes,
Remembering the red curve of her kiss
As she passed out of Paradise.

"See, how the apple-boughs are twisted in
their pain,
Weighed down with many a red-cheeked
little Cain,
And how the serpent writhes away
To this far day.
An angel is a lovely, lonely thing
Of boundless wing.
They are the banished ones that grieve;
Not Eve!

"Not Eve, her body quick with coming
pride,
Nor Adam walking there at her white
side—
A little heavily perhaps,
Because of things scarce known,
As yet not named:
New tenderness for Eve, but not for Eve
alone,
Fears not yet fears—
And out beyond, the world untamed
Of which to make
Their surer paradise of tears.

"But in the Garden is a hallowed emptiness
Of laws, forgotten now,
Concerning fruit and flowers,
That none shall ever bless
Or break;
And in the Garden is the one plucked
bough
That blossoms whimpering
Through a divine monotony
Of spring on spring."

Another of her poems, characteristic of this poet's joyous acceptance of a world which has overpowered too many artists in this generation, a poem expressive of that half-forgotten truth that the only way to deal adequately with life is to accept it, may well close this brief acknowledgment of our debt to Leonora Speyer:

"Measure Me, Sky"

"Measure me, sky!
Tell me I reach by a song
Nearer the stars;
I have been little so long.

"Weigh me, high wind!
What will your wild scales record?
Profit of pain,
Joy by the weight of a word.

"Horizon, reach out,
Catch at my hands, stretch me taut,
Rim of the world!
Widen my eyes by a thought.

"Sky, be my depth,
Wind, be my tolerant height,
World, my heart's span—
Loneliness, wings for my flight!"

Women Will Have a Voice

THE Inter-American Commission of Women is in receipt of cable notices from Geneva of the greatest stride forward yet recorded in the vexed question of the nationality of women. On Saturday, January 24, Jose Matos, delegate for Guatemala to the League of Nations, after able and eloquent argument against permitting discriminations against women to be written into world law on nationality, succeeded in obtaining a resolution reopening the whole question of nationality and placing it upon the agenda of the next Assembly of the League of Nations.

It will be recalled that women from all over the world, under the brilliant leadership of Alice Paul, chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and a founder of the Woman's Party of the United States, have been conducting a campaign before the League protesting against ratification of the covenant on nationality adopted by the Hague Conference on International Law last March. Because of the discriminations against women which the covenant embodied, the United States delegation, on receipt of cable instructions from Washington, refused to sign; and now the League's adoption of Dr. Matos' resolution brings the entire matter up for reconsideration.

Moreover, this time women will have a voice in settling their own nationality law, since the resolution introduced by Dr. Matos and adopted by the League further provides for the creation of an International Commission on Nationality, composed of representatives of international groups of women such as the International Council of Women; the International Suffrage Alliance; the Women's League for Peace and Freedom; the Inter-American Commision of Women; and the Equal Rights International. This important body will act as a Commission of the League to study the question of the Nationality of Women and to report its recommendations to the 1931 Assembly of the League.

The precedent for the Commission created by the Resolution of Dr. Matos is the establishment by the Sixth Pan-American Conference in Havana of the Inter-American Commission of Women as a consequence of the campaign for Equal Rights led there by Doris Stevens, chairman of the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party, who was named representative of the United States and chairman of the Inter-American Commission. Nationality was the first subject of investigation taken up by the Inter-American Commission of Women in its legal research respecting the status of women in the twenty-one American republics; and its exhaustive Nationality Report, covering not only the western hemisphere, but the whole world has been the standard authority throughout the nationality campaign.

Dr. Jose Matos, whose forward-looking stand has once more emphatically affirmed the interest of Latin America in the question of the nationality rights of women, was elected at last September's Assembly to the League of Nations. He is a member of the American Institute of International Law and a distinguished authority on questions of international jurisprudence and international relations. Formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, he has also served his country as rector of the National University.

"It should be noted that not only all

leading women's organizations, both national and international, are agreed in demanding equal nationality rights for women," declared Laura Berrien, a member of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women commenting upon the cable from the League of Nations, "but such distinguished professional organizations as the American Society of International Law make the same demand. Alice Paul has done inestimable service to women everywhere by her devotion to their nationality rights and her campaign at Geneva this year. Doris Stevens has been an inspiring leader at The Hague, in Paris, in Havana, and in Washington. The press of the world has recorded the unselfish achievements for women everywhere of these two American women.

"And now Dr. Matos, another American, representing the Hispanic republics of our hemisphere, has caused the writing of a lumnous page into the history of world progress toward equality. To him, as to Alice Paul and Doris Stevens, we are indebted for the laying of the spectre of threatened discriminations against women which, once written into the world law, it might require generations to remove."

Equal Rights Treaty Advances

THE realization by the nations of the world that no peace, no security can be obtained among or between them without the free co-operation of women, is evidenced by the rapid acceptance of the Equal Rights Treaty with its simple Article I:

> "The contracting parties agree that upon the ratification of this treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdictions."

In 1926 the idea of the Equal Rights Treaty was rumored; in 1928 the actual treaty was presented to Pan-America; in 1929 scouts tested it at the Assembly of the League of Nations; in 1930 its presentation to the League of Nations was assured. To facilitate the progress of the Equal Rights Treaty the Equal Rights International was formed at Geneva in September, 1930. This international organization has rapidly grown, established a Council representative of many nations and which directs the policy to be followed; selected an executive to carry out the policy, functioning with all authority and headed by four officers appointed by the Council. So quickly is the presentation of the Equal Rights Treaty advancing that an Extraordinary meeting of the Council was held in Geneva on January 17.

The Council met formally to transact necessary business but also to meet Dr. Benes, Foreign Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, and other national representatives atending at Geneva.

Dr. Benes has undertaken to pilot the Equal Rights Treaty through the League of Nations and conferences will be held with officials of the secretariat.

While some of the more conservative statesmen hesitate to commit their nations to equality between men and women, none can resist the great current of opinion in its favor, none has openly declared opposition. Similarly with the more conservative women there is hesitation in acceptance but no expressed opposition. The most notable and recent international group to come in, in support, is the world-wide Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a most valuable and powerful ally.

Press Comment

Married Women in Government Jobs

New York Times, January 16, 1931.

WHETHER woman's place is in the home is still a moot question. If her husband earns as much as $100 a month, State Senator Powell of North Carolina believes that she has no right to a place in public employment.

He is sponsoring a bill which would require the State and every county and town to discharge from its service every married woman whose husband makes $100 a month or more. His object is to relieve the unemployment situation in the State by giving preference in government jobs to "a large number of deserving and needy widows, competent single women and married men who have been deprived of their jobs on account of the depression through no fault of theirs." The measure would not apply to school teachers.

Such a ruling would oust Mrs. E. W. McKee, Senator from Jackson, and Mrs. W. T. Bost, State Commissioner of Welfare, and, says the Raleigh *News and Observer,* "hundreds of others." Senator Powell believes that it might also prove an economy, "as it may not be necessary to fill some of the positions now held by married women, and thus be a saving to the State." He does not comment on the loss to the State of replacing experienced and efficient workers by raw recruits whose need is their chief recommendation.

Such special legislation as this should be closely scrutinized. A logical sequel to it would be to discharge all government officials who have private means insuring them an income of $100 a month, leaving their jobs for the needy. Or why not heavily cut all government salaries and give the saving to an unemployment fund?

Women Up in Arms

Knickerbocker Press, Albany, New York, January 15, 1931.

THE women were heard from yesterday on the question of whether wives whose husbands can support them should be allowed to draw down incomes of their own as public employes.

Assemblyman Arthur L. Swartz of Erie raised the question when he introduced in the Legislature a resolution calling for a survey of school systems and of State, county and city offices, to find out how many married women there are on the payrolls, and how many of these could get along on what their husbands earn.

Responses from all directions began pouring in upon legislators yesterday, and the majority of them indicated that seldom has a legislator hit upon a more effective method of making a lot of women good and mad.

Many Albany women registered their protests by telephone and gave the legislative leaders an earful of ideas as to whose place is in the home. Letters from aroused constituents bulked large in the legislators' mail.

Lobbyists for women's organizations which are on guard against measures discriminating against their sex in business or industry, though they reported that a number of legislators had assured them they would oppose the resolution, nevertheless intend to keep a sharp eye on developments and sound a call to arms if it appears to be getting anywhere.

The resolution was tabled for debate, on motion of Assemblyman Russell G. Dunmore, Republican floor leader, when it was offered Monday night.

Opponents of the resolution pointed out that if Assemblyman Swartz's plan of action were carried out, and a wholesale dismissal of married women from public posts effected, it would include the removal of such able officials as Industrial Commissioner Frances Perkins, and Mrs. Charles B. Smith, president of the Civil Service Commission.

Commissioner Perkins is already on record in opposition to the principle of the proposed legislation, holding that the replacement of one group of employes by another would not aid in solving the unemployment problem, which Assemblyman

FEB 37

Swartz has declared is the most important purpose of the legislation he proposes.

The Good Abet the Bad

The Sun, Baltimore, Md., January 14, 1931.

ONE of the discouraging things about good people is their tendency to allow their virtues to redound to the benefit of bad people. Only the other day a number of New York welfare workers and public-spirited women, interested in "cleaning up the town," expressed doubts of the charges that girls have been framed by the police, paid informers and corrupt judges. Some of them bolstered up their doubts by asking, "Are we to believe a confessed liar like Acuna?" as if testimony on framing could come from any but the framers!

Even before Mr. Kresel's revelations had got under way Mr. George E. Worthington, writing in the *Panel,* minimized the importance of the "vice-ring" revelations by the easy statement that "it is absurd to think that police officers would victimize the innocent when the guilty are so readily available." Since it has never been maintained that all the victims of Acuna's activities were innocent in the sense of requirement for canonization, Mr. Worthington's objection is trvial, and, after all, a system of blackmailing even the "guilty" can hardly be defended in a decent society.

However, in view of the fact that Mr. Kresel's investigation is proceeding under great difficulties, including the complete disappearance of several witnesses and the threatening of others, it does seem a pity that the sole contribution of "welfare workers" should be an attempt to discredit the revelations—thus unwittingly facilitating the escape of "higher-ups" yet to be brought to book. That "good people" should value the incarceration of "bad women" as an activity so important as to make negligible the consequent growth of a horrid, swinish trade in framed charges and paid indulgences might be an item in support of the thesis of Bertrand Russell's monograph, "The Harm That Good Men Do."

Open Door International Sends Congratulations

THE Headquarters Committee of the Open Door International, Feminist organization representative of many countries, whose object is to obtain for a woman freedom to work and protection as a worker on the same terms as a man, has sent a message of warm congratulation to the National Woman's Party because of the latter's campaign against the dismissal of women as a policy during this era of unemployment.

Winifred Le Sueur of England, secretary of the Open Door International, has sent the following official message to Woman's Party leaders at Alva Belmont House, in Washington:

"The Headquarters Committee of the Open Door International is anxious that I convey to the National Woman's Party of America the interest and sympathy of the Open Door International in the attack which is being made on the right of women to work in the United States, and particularly in the attempt to prohibit the night work of women, as a misguided effort to cure unemployment. The Open Door International greatly values the stern resistance which the national Woman's Party is making to this attack and follows with much interest the details each week.

"May I say also how much we welcome the really useful information given with regard to the legal position of night work in the various States? It is exceedingly valuable to the Open Door International, which is collecting a statement on the exact legal position in all countries, to find tabulated the situation in any particular country."

Commenting upon the cable from abroad, Muna Lee, director of national activities of the Woman's Party, made the following statement:

"The National Woman's Party affirms that at this time of unemployment no woman, married or single, now employed, should be required to give up her position in order to make a place for a man. We believe that women's opportunity for work should not be limited by dismissing them from night work. Such disadvantages as may be inherent in night work apply equally to men and women. If it is prohibited for one, it should be prohibited for both. Any attempt to carry out a plan of dismissal of women, either through legislation or regulation, will be systematically opposed by the National Woman's Party. The injustice of the treatment of employed women in many sections of the country, which has been thrown into high relief by recent attempts to take away their present employment, necessitates the immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which declares that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

Feminist Notes

Another Epochal Flight

ALREADY a holder of records, Mrs. Victor Bruce, of England, made, perhaps, her greatest record of all in becoming the first pilot, man or woman, flying solo from England to the Far East and striking off a new air route across Europe, Turkey, Persia, India, Burma, and China to Tokio.

When she started her flight in September, 1930, Mrs. Bruce had had only forty hours' flying experience to back her ambitious enterprise.

Two of her many exciting adventures on the way were an encounter with wild tribesmen when she made a forced landing near Jask in the desert near the Persian Gulf, and a forced landing because of a storm while crossing the Taurus Mountain, Asia Minor. After this last landing, she borrowed a horse from Turkish peasants and rode to the nearest town.

Mrs. Bruce is the holder of a great many motoring records, including single-handed endurance driving's world record; driving a car twenty-four hours with an average speed of 90 miles an hour; and the winning of the Monte Carlo rally—an exacting endurance test. Incidentally, she was the first woman to win this rally.

Does Sex Really Matter?

"PULL over to the side. What do you think this is? A race track?"

Drivers, at least in England, may soon hear these dismal commands in the softer voices of women motor cops.

They will probably not be exactly as quoted, since tact is one of the reasons given for women's probable success in the job, if they are allowed to try it. Other reasons advanced are, first and most important, they are excellent motorcyclists; second, they are rarely involved in accidents; and third, they are more practical than men.

In regard to this last qualification, the headmaster of Eton, in making a recent speech, said, "When you come to practical things, it is hardly possible to exaggerate the futility of men."

Amy Johnson Takes Off

AMY JOHNSON, the famous English aviator, has started off again! On January 1, she started an 8,000-mile solo flight from England to Pekin.

She started from Hendon, England, and made her first stop at Liege, Belgium. Her stops from there on were planned for Warsaw, Moscow, Omsk, and then across the Gobi Desert to Pekin.

Not satisfied with crossing the equator on her famous flight to Australia last May, Miss Johnson on this second flight crossed snow and ice for hundreds of miles

of her journey. The Russian part of the trip was the most dangerous, and at Moscow the airplane's wheels were replaced by skis to make a forced landing on ice possible.

Speaking of the flight, before Miss Johnson started, a Soviet Embassy official said:

"She must be prepared to fly through intense cold with the ground covered by several feet of snow, especially as she gets further north. It is a very difficult and plucky flight to undertake. She will receive all possible assistance from officials and everyone on the journey across Russia."

Miss Johnson's flight is the first direct air journey from London to Pekin ever attempted.

Flying School for Women

HELEN CLOHECY, 26 years old and one of the twenty-five women holders of transport airplaine pilot's licenses in this country, is going to open a flying school in Florida exclusively for women. Speaking of plans for her school, she said:

"Many years separate stolen rides on a brother's bicycle and gaining a transport pilot's license, but I believe women deserve as prominent a place in flying as do men, and I hope to help some of them toward this end."

Since she gained her limited commercial license in 1926, Mrs. Clohecy has acted as demonstration and sales pilot. Her husband was a flight observer during the war and he is as eager as she to open the school.

Women Engineers

"INROADS made into the profession by women in recent years" are discussed in "Electrical Engineering as a Career," a booklet prepared by the Department of the Interior.

It appears, however, that electrical engineering jobs are still primarily held by men. Most of the women in the field, which is the most crowded of the entire engineering profession, are engaged in drafting, designing, illuminating, radio-engineering, teaching, and manufacturing.

International Women's College

"A COLLEGE for women, of which the special purpose is to create international-mindedness," opened at Geneva this autumn, according to the *Bulletin* of the International Council of Women.

Alice Mildren Burgess, formerly of Washington, D. C., is the president. Lecturers from the League of Nations plan to address the students and the University of Geneva is offering opportunity for the study of languages and other subjects.

Australian Lawyer

A SECOND woman lawyer, Elizabeth Mabel Nimmo, has been recently admitted to practise before the bar in Queensland, Australia. The first woman lawyer in that state was Kathleen McGregor.

News from the Field

Alva Belmont House Threatened

GENERAL consternation has been aroused by the discovery that one of Washington's oldest and most historic residences is in imminent danger of destruction. Members of Congress, architects, historical societies, as well as the National Woman's Party, have voiced dismayed surprise at finding that passage of House Bill 16245, in its present form, would provide for the condemnation of Capitol Hill property between B and C and First and Second streets, in order to provide a site for the Bureau of Accounts in accordance with the plans of Mr. McCarl, Comptroller of the Currency. This implies the destruction of the mellow old Georgian brick mansion, intimately associated with the most stirring episodes in the life of the Nation's Capitol, which was recently dedicated by the Woman's Party as their national headquarters, Alva Belmont House.

A hearing on the proposed bill was held on January 28, in the room of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. Richard Elliott, congressman from Indina, who, as chairman of the committee, presided over the session, introduced the bill.

Alva Belmont House is the only building left on Capitol Hill associated with the early life of Washington. Because of its unique architectural merit, and its past history, great interest is being shown in its preservation as a historic monument. Members of Congress have freely expresed the views that the beauty of the city depends as much on the preservation of such beautiful survivals from the past, as on the erection of modern structures. It is certain that the Woman's Party will make every effort to preserve for posterity the fine old house, the dedication of which as their headquarters was a national event on January 4, with a nation-wide radio broadcast of a program commented upon in the press all over the country and in leading papers abroad.

Pioneer Feminist Dies

DOCTOR JENNIE VAN HOLLAND BAKER, pioneer suffragist and a Founder of the National Woman's Party, passed away on January 16.

Dr. Baker was a well-known physician and surgeon in Brooklyn, N. Y., where she had practiced for nearly fifty years.

She was educated at the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women, of which her aunt, Dr. Clemence S. Lozier, was the founder and dean. Dr. Baker received her medical degree in 1882, and then for several years was president of the staff and senior surgeon at the Memorial Hospital for Women and Children in Brooklyn. She had also served as a member of the board of managers of the hospital and as trustee and treasurer of the Memorial Dispensary for Women and Children.

She was a member of the Kings County Homeopathic Medical Society, the New York State Homeopathic Society, the American Institute of Homeopathy and the Brooklyn Woman's Club.

TWO MILLION DOLLAR FUND

Treasurer's Report

LAURA BERRIEN, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., *Auditor*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to December 1, 1930, $1,863,879.15.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, December 1 to 31, 1930:

Mrs. Lucy Barthelme, D. C	$1.00
Miss Laura Berrien, D. C	30.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Brandes, N. Y	1.00
Miss Jessie Dell, D. C	25.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa	5.00
Mrs. Marline Ray French, D. C	3.00
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Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Del	1.00
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Miss Minnie Kendall Lowther, D. C	1.00
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Mrs. Catherine Parker Clivette, N. Y	.25
Mrs. John Cunning	.25
Mrs. Joseph Cunningham	.25
Mrs. Gladys W. Criswell	.25
Miss Gladys Greiner	.25
Miss Olga Hourwich	.25
Miss Claire Liggett	.25
Mrs. J. Bromley Seeley	.25
Miss Grace Smith	.25
Mrs. Alex. Spingarn	.25
Rent	330.00
Sale of literature	6.00
Returns from dinner at Philadelphia Conference	223.00
Returns from lantern show	57.15
Total receipts, December 1 to 31, 1930	$888.90
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to December 31, 1930	$1,864,768.05

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